

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Original.) A method for preparing a molded foam article comprising:
 - a. forming a polyurethane-forming mixture by mixing
 - i. a fatty acid condensation product;
 - ii. an IMR-enhancer compound;
 - iii. an isocyanate;
 - iv. a polyol;
 - v. a catalyst; and
 - vi. a blowing agent;
 - b. filling a mold with the polyurethane-forming mixture;
 - c. forming a molded foam article; and
 - d. removing the molded foam article from the mold.

2. (Original.) The method of Claim 1, wherein the fatty acid condensation product, the IMR enhancer compound, and the isocyanate are first mixed to yield an enhanced IMR "A" side composition.

3. (Original.) The method of Claim 1, wherein the fatty acid condensation product, the IMR enhancer compound, and the polyol are first mixed to yield an enhanced IMR "B" side composition.

4. (Original.) The method of Claim 1, wherein a portion of the fatty acid condensation product, a portion of the IMR-enhancer compound, and the isocyanate are first mixed to yield an enhanced IMR "A" side composition and wherein the residual portion of the fatty acid condensation product, the residual portion of the IMR-enhancer compound, and the polyol are mixed to yield an enhanced "B" side composition.

5. (Original.) The method of Claim 1, wherein the fatty acid condensation product is a condensation product of a fatty acid selected from the group consisting of ricinoleic acid, oleic acid, alaidic acid, stearic acid, palmitic acid, linoleic acid, octanoic acid, coconut oil acids, tallow fatty acid, paraffin oxidation acids, and tall oil fatty acid and the IMR-enhancer compound is mineral oil.

6. (Original.) A molded foam article prepared in accordance with the method of Claim 1.

7. (Currently Amended.)

A method for preparing an enhanced IMR composition comprising:

a. reacting a fatty acid condensation product with an isocyanate in the presence of an IMR-enhancer compound,

wherein the fatty acid condensation product, having product has at least one active hydrogen containing group.

8. (Currently Amended.)

An enhanced IMR composition prepared in accordance with the method of Claim 6 7.

9. (Amended.) The method of Claim 1, wherein the components mixed in the "forming a polyurethane-forming mixture" mixture is formed by preparing step further comprise the an enhanced IMR composition of Claim 7 by reacting the fatty acid condensation product with the isocyanate in the presence of the IMR-enhancer compound, wherein the fatty acid condensation product has at least one active hydrogen containing group.

10. (New.) The method of Claim 5, wherein the condensation product is a product of the fatty acid and an alcohol, amine or a mixture thereof.

11. (New.) The method of Claim 10, wherein the condensation product is a product of the fatty acid and an alcohol.

12. (New.) The method of Claim 11, wherein the alcohol is selected from butanol,

hexanol, octanol, dodecanol, oleyl alcohol, natural or synthetic steroid alcohol, ethylene glycol, propylene glycol, butanediol, hexanediol, glycerol, polyglycerol, trimethylolpropane, pentaerythritol, sorbitol, hexitol, a sugar and an addition product of an alkylene oxide.

13. (New.) The method of Claim 10, wherein the condensation product is a product of the fatty acid and an amino alcohol or an amine.

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14. (New.) The method of Claim 13, wherein the amino alcohol or amine is selected from ammonia, a monoalkylamine, a dialkylamine or an amine aloxylation product.

15. (New.) The method of Claim 14, wherein the amino alcohol is methylamine, diethylamine or ethanolamine.

Claims in the Application. Claims 7-9 have been amended. Claims 10-15 have been added to this application. Accordingly, Claims 1-15 are active in this application. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Examiner's Rejection of the Claims Over Horn et al. The Examiner has rejected Claim 1, 3 and 5-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO 98/25985 ("Horn et al"). This ground for rejection is traversed. The U.S. equivalent of *Horn* is U.S. Patent No. 6,169,124 B1, copy attached. Note that the 102(e) date for this patent is May 14, 1999, subsequent to the effective filing date of the instant application. Applicant further notes that the Examiner is unable to rely upon 102(e)/103 since *Horn* is not published in the English language. (References to *Horn* herein refer to the U.S. equivalent.)

The claimed composition of Applicant contains (i.) a "fatty acid condensation product" internal mold release agent; and (ii.) an "IMR-enhancer compound". A fatty acid condensation product is prepared from a fatty acid, such as a fatty acid and an alcohol or a fatty acid and an amine. A fatty acid is defined as an "organic, monobasic acid derived from hydrocarbons by the equivalent of oxidation of a methyl group to an alcohol." See , Grant et al, *Grant & Hackh's Chemical Dictionary*, Fifth Edition, p. 230 (1987), attached.

Horn fails to disclose a polyurethane-forming mixture containing a fatty acid condensation product. The internal mold release agents of *Horn* are "alkylsuccinic diester, alkenylsuccinic diesters, alkylsuccinic monoesters and alkenylsuccinic monoesters or mixtures of these diesters and monoesters." (Ll. 59-63, col. 10.) A succinic acid is a diacid, not a monobasic acid.

The Examiner states that "Horn et al. teach or suggest the use of oleic acid . . ." (Last full paragraph of page 2 of Office Action.) It is true that *Horn* discloses the use of an oleic acid but

not as an internal mold release agent and not as a fatty acid condensation product in a “polyurethane-forming mixture”, as required by Applicant. The only meaningful disclosure to an oleic acid in *Horn* appears in Example 1, which is directed to a *reaction product* of a polyisobutylenesuccinic anhydride and an ester of *oleic acid/adipic acid/pentaerythritol*. *See* lines 5-11 of column 26 of *Horn*.) This reaction product, which is not a fatty acid condensation product, is used to form the polyurethane-forming mixture in *Horn*.

Other references to oleic acid in *Horn* do not teach a fatty acid condensation product of oleic acid. For example, while line 1 of column 13 refers to oleic acid, it is clear that the oleic acid is used to prepare a liquid polyoxyalkylene alcohol which, in turn, is reacted with the succinic acid derivative. Thus, the resulting composition does not contain a fatty acid condensation product but, instead, a succinic acid derivative which, at best, is derived from a fatty acid condensation product. Likewise, note the references to oleic acid in line 32 of column 14, line 39 of column 15, lines 13 and 50 of column 17, line 7 of column 18, and line 8 of column 19. In neither of these references is oleic acid being used as a member of a fatty acid condensation product. Lastly, the reference to “oleic acid” in line 61 of column 22 refers to a metal salt of oleic acid and not a condensation product.

Further, *Horn* fails to disclose an “IMR-enhancer compound”. While *Horn* does make a shotgun disclosure that “synthetic lubricants based on aromatic and aliphatic hydrocarbons or mineral oils” may be used in combination with a mold release agent, *Horn* fails to disclose the ability of the claimed IMR-enhancer compound to “reduce the force to remove the molded foam article from the mold.” Note the discussion in lines 8-16 of page 6 of Applicant’s specification. Thus, *Horn* does not disclose an IMR-enhancer compound.

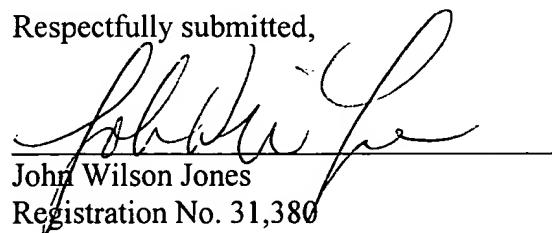
Examiner's Rejection of the Claims Over Horn et al. in view of Clatty The Examiner has further rejected Claims 2 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Horn et al* and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,751,252 ("Clatty"). This ground for rejection is traversed.

Clatty fails to disclose an internal mold release agent composed of a fatty acid condensation product. Neither does the reference disclose the IMR enhancer. Claims 2 and 4 of Applicant clearly require the presence of a fatty acid condensation product and an IMR-enhancer compound with the isocyanate. At best therefore, the passage of *Clatty*, relied upon by the Examiner, discloses mixing the polyisocyanate with a mold release agent. The combination of *Horn* and *Clatty* therefore does not render Claim 2, nor 4, obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Examiner's Rejection of Claim 8 Under 35 USC 112. The Examiner has rejected Claim 8 under the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112. It is believed that the amendment of the claim obviates the need for a discussion of this rejection.

Conclusion. The claims of Applicant are distinguishable over the cited references for the reasons stated above. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned should he deem it prudent to expedite the processing of this application.

Respectfully submitted,


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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION, 37 C.F.R. § 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office on this the 3rd day of October, 2003.



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